



## Arlington Commission for Arts & Culture Minutes

Date: Thursday, March 6, 2025

Time: 7:00-8:30p

Location: Hybrid Town Hall Annex and Zoom

Attendees: Stewart Ikeda, Anne Thomson, Laurie Bogdan, Jessica Chao, Christine Noah, Nicole Cuff

Absent: Tom Formicola, Sarah Morgan-Wu, Parmit Singh

Guests: Cecily Miller, Katie Luczai, Nora Chan, Laura Cook

1. **Welcome** 7:00p-7:05p
2. **Minutes** – For approval: [February Minutes](#) 7:05p-7:10p
3. **DPCD & Chair Updates** 7:10p-7:25p
  - DPCD Updates
  - [More commissioners and chair succession](#) - If anyone has interest in shadowing to potentially become co-chair and/or co-chair a committee, reach out to Christine and Stewart.
  - Christine: started a discussion on this. Stewart's term is up this spring, and Christine is up next year. Looking for people who are interested. Can learn about roles- they are both open to further discussion with anyone.
  - Stewart: Good practice that the terms are staggered. Good to periodically get fresh ideas, new leadership. This is true on the committee levels as well. Building a sustainable organization.
  - Christine, Stewart, and treasurer Jessica Chao did a presentation to the Finance Committee. Presented current budget, building a good relationship. We have one of the larger budgets of all the town committees so we get called nearly every year. Jessica led the presentation and feedback was very positive. Many mentioned popular programs like festivals, window painting, murals, ACA's Open Studios and Garage Band, etc.
  - Jessica shared the presentation PPT tonight, presenting the slides as part of her financial report. We asked for level funding of \$35K allocation in 2026 & 2027.
  - Discussion: Stewart observes that we usually vote on final budget so late in the year (revised budget) because of where our funding comes in seasonally, which doesn't always match Town's timing. Should we ask for a different fiscal year from the Town's to help with more accurate projections?

- We plan to hold some \$ back (carryforward to next FY). Preferred to have \$15K. For '26 and '27, only \$5K. Need to focus on fundraising. Christine could use a new co-chair to help build sustainable fundraising efforts.
- Most donations come from individuals. Christine: ACAC used to have a family who used to give \$7K annually. And Chairful auction used to bring in some. These have been more effective than Business donations so far.
- Laurie: Would be great if 250 Horses could get auctioned, and \$ would go to ACAC. Maybe in Sept/Oct. 2026.
- Cecily: Need to find more people for the fundraising committee
- Jessica: For donors, there needs to be a personal connection. High touch. For annual fund, money is unrestricted. But normally people want to give money and have it spent a certain way.
- **Katie's DPCD Updates:** We have a new DEI director Ramsha Baluch started in February. Jessica asked about Juneteenth. Last year we partnered with them on a couple projects, such as friends and neighbors banners.
- Applications for Porchfest went out today. Maybe ACAC can do an art exhibit? Cecily: murals- maybe some of those locations could host.
- Sitewalk next Friday, for garden, along bike path
- Town Survey: 900 responses so far, 60% people wanted more art! She'll share more results.
- Ken Burns coming to Arlington- more info coming soon
- MOTT grant available, Open until April 11th- anyone can apply (announced yesterday). Cecily mentioned possible d'Agostino's mural.
- Our State Rep. Sean Garballey made chair for joint committee on arts, tourism & culture development
- Finance Committee Update

4. **Vote: Budget FY25** 7:25-7:45p

- Jessica Present at end of FinComm Update
- We did not have quorum for meeting so we need to push budget vote to next month.

5. **Community Engagement & Upcoming 250 Activities** 7:45-8:15p

- March 15: Photo op event for artist Christopher Frost - Cecily is working on this- needs people to pose on pedestals for 250 themed project
- March 16: Donut Villa holding a drag queen festival
- Poet Laureate's Events and Anthology- looking for support for some other readings
- April 6 - 250 Kickoff at Capitol Theatre- Possibly support music, colonial dance, Poet Laureate reading, and host ACAC Table (like at town day, swag, talk to people, etc)
- April 5- 13 Forest (4-6pm) opening reception for exhibition that will highlight artists from our 250 themed Signature public art exhibitions
- Old Schwamb Mill - also hosting exhibition installed April 1 (all hands for this one) on our 250 themed projects

- April 17-19, exhibition: ACAC presents quilting guild in 250-themed project honoring quilter Harriet Powers at Mystic Open Studio. April 17 reception- ACAC should attend this. Quilts on view April 19, Mystic Open studio (11-4).Need volunteer docents?
- 250-related talk on May 10 at Old Schwamb Mill
- 250-related Restaurant Week – April 12-21 - Promotions
- 250-related Town Hall Beer Hall - Help with Band, Arts Activities, Table
- 250-related Jason Russell House Tours – April 19 + 21 - ACD
- 250-related Battle of Menotomy – April 20 - Promotions (2pm start) streets close at 12:30
- 250-related Ride of Revere & Dawes – April 21 - Possibly support Poet Laureate reading
- 250-related Painted Horses - Laurie Update (installed first week of April)
- 250-related Cyanotype Banners & OSM & 13Forest - Collab - Need Volunteers to help (March 17 banners printed and ready)
- 250-related Nilou Moochala Timeline Project: What kind of opening? First week of April?
- 250-related Christopher Frost - Need volunteers for early promotions

## 6. **New Business**

8:15-8:30p

- Town Meeting seeks our help sourcing musicians to play National Anthem
- Town Meeting Moderator Greg Christiana seeks performance of the Anthem every Monday & Wednesday after April 28th. Would this be people donating their time? Not sure. We could offer an honorarium, better not to set a precedent.
- What about a coordinator for live arts? Do scheduling, with the artists. An intern? Cecily mentioned asking Rachel Oliveri. What are next steps? Laurie will work on a job description, and can find someone.
- Laura mentioned Mystic Chorale & Daniel Parsley
- Jessica- what about sound equipment? Katie said the town has an amp, not very high end. Nicole was looking into more musical type equipment. 2 tiers. Battery powered, and then \$600- \$1500 price range. Or could look into a portable power pack. Price? Some can be \$3000. But ours is about \$300. Community engagement issue. Off the table for one.
- There have been 2 requests for live arts for recently
- Need help finding an upbeat band for the Beer Hall (April 19th at Town Hall)- request from deputy town manager.

**Next meeting will be Thursday, April 3, 2025 from 7:00-8:30p**